Labor— 1921.

United States Department of

U. S. Making Survey of Labor Situation.

Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 13.—With possible plans for Government efforts to revive activities in its employment service department in view, Robert L. Russell, recently appointed district director for the United States Employment Service, is in Fort Worth, making a survey of the industrial situation for the service. Russell is obtaining estimates on the number of idle men, the changes of employment, etc.

Russell's district comprises Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. His headquarters is in New Orleans. Nine district directors are now making a survey of the entire country for the employment service and will report to Washington before Jan. 15, when their reports will be made public. It has been estimated that there are 2,000,000 unemployed in the United States at present.

Russell is now on the last part of his survey. He has been through Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The trades to which Russell has been ordered to pay close attention are building, textile workers, leather workers, packing and food products workers, lumber workers, auto and accessory workers, clay, glass, stone and cement workers.

"I get in close touch with industrial conditions through various sources, many of them confidential," Russell stated Saturday. "I am not allowed to give out any estimates until I make my report." The Government is paving the way for much economic service to the people through the reports of the directors of the nine districts, says Russell. Russell will remain in Fort Worth several days.

SECOND STUDY OF NEGRO LABOR ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Superesse Circle 3/12/21

The Department of Labor has just issued a second study on Negro labor consisting of a monograph of 144 pages giving data about occupations in which Negroes were most generally employed during the war period, the average number of workers employed Negroes and the Negro workers' records as to absenteeism, turnover, etc. The report also gives full account of the plans, policies, methods of handling the problems dealt with by the Department of Labor during the past three years for increasing the efficiency of Negro workers and improving the relations of Negro workers, white workers and employers.

Figures showing the distribution of Negro men in unskilled occupations in twenty-six States, comprising 62,340 Negro workers in 292 firms in the different war industries in 1918 are given. The large percentage of increase of Negroes in meat-packing establishments from 1916 to 1919 and an analysis of the occupations of 24,648 Negro workers in the shipbuilding plants under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Shipping Board, studies of Negroes in iron and steel plants and other basic industries during the war are included. The opinions of employers who have had experience with Negro workers have been ascertained and tabulated.

A brief summary is given of the large shift of colored women from domestic and personal service into industrial and clerical occupations during the war period.

In commenting on the publication Dr. George E. Haynes of the Department of Labor said, "The facts given in this second study of Negro labor have been very carefully gathered, collated and analyzed. The tables and figures and other data while limited in quantity and scope are accurate and probably the most available and almost the only material covering these problems."

CREATE BUREAU FOR THE HANDLING OF NEGRO LABOR

4/7/21 Atlanta Constitution

Washington, April 6—Negro labor difficulties and collection of statistics bearing upon negro employment generally will be dealt with through a single labor department office, as a result of a reorganization and consolidation effective today, announced by Secretary Davis. The former bureau of negro economics has been made an adjunct of the general conciliation division, under direction of Phil H. Brown, of Kentucky. He succeeds Dr. George Y. Haines, and in addition becomes commissioner of conciliation charged especially with the duty of negotiating with negro labor in case of disputes requiring federal intervention.

The statistical work begun by the negro economic bureau will be continued under the new incumbent.

DIVISION OF NEGRO ECONOMICS ABOLISHED

Negro World 4/9/21

Regarding the Division of Negro Economics, the Secretary of Labor made the following announcement today:

"The so-called Division of Negro Economics has been abolished by the Secretary of Labor largely because there is no such thing as segregating the 'economies' of Negro wage-earners from those of any other race. It is fundamentally un-American to create classes or to recognize classes. Our laws do not distinguish between white men and Negroes or any other class or classes.

"It is recognized that there is a race distinction and sometimes it is very convenient to have the assistance of a representative of a race in dealing with the members of that race. So far as labor matters are concerned the race distinction becomes more pronounced in the field of collective bargaining when troubles between employers and employees threaten. For that reason a member of the Negro race has been appointed a commissioner of conciliation, who has been detailed to serve wherever the Secretary may feel the need of race representation and to advise the Secretary.

"This change in policy so far has been working very satisfactorily. Much valuable information has been gathered regarding pertinent data and statistical information relative to Negro workers and a brief release is now available bearing on the approximate trend of industrial employment and unemployment among Negro toilers. The publications of the Department, 'Negro Migration in 1916-17' and 'The Negro at Work During the World War and During Reconstruction' are still available for free distribution through the Department of Labor, Washington, D. C."

ASKS FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY NEGRO RACE

St Louis Globe 4/15/21

Resolution Offered by Maryland Congressman Follows Suggestion by President Harding

WASHINGTON, April 13. —Creation of a Negro industrial commission to study the problems affecting the Negro race, as suggested by President Harding in his message yesterday, was proposed in a bill introduced today by Representative Layton, Republican, Delaware.

The commission would consist of five white and three Negro members to be named by the President for a term of four years with $200,000 appropriated for first-year expenditures. It would be required to make a comprehensive survey of economic conditions and Negro labor; suggest means of stimulating thrift, stamp out Bolshevism and find out how to best promote the welfare of the race

TWO BILLS FOR STUDY OF NEGRO PROBLEM

Guardian 4/23/21

COMMISSION ON LYNCHING, McCORMICK'S PLAN

Washington, April 16, 1921—President Harding's suggestion to Congress, in his recent address, for a National commission to study the negro problem in its many phases, has been followed up by the introduction of several bills in Senate and House. Among them are bills by Senator McCormick of Illinois and Representative Layton of Delaware.

President Harding spoke particularly of the need for wiping "the stain of barbaric lynchings from the banners of a free and orderly representative democracy." He said that a study of the negro problem might well ameliorate present conditions.

Senator McCormick's bill would create a commission on lynching, to be composed of five members, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The members would serve without salary, except that one commissioner, designated by the President, should act as secretary and receive a salary of $5000 a year.

The commission would be authorized, under the McCormick bill, to hold hearings anywhere in the United States, summon persons and administer oaths, compel the attendance of witnesses and compel testimony. Its final report would be made not later than Jan. 22, 1922, including its recommendations. It would conduct a general inquiry into the subject of lynchings and mob violence in the United States, covering the lynchings that have taken place in the last 20 years. An appropriation of $100,000 is proposed to cover expenses. The bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Layton's bill goes further than the McCormick bill. It creates a Colored industrial commission to study all aspects of the negro problem and make recommendations to better conditions. His commission also would be composed of five members, three of whom would be Colored. The members would all draw salaries, not in excess of $5000 each.

The duties of this commission would be to study the economic conditions of the negro, the labor problems in which the negro is interested, to stimulate and encourage thrift among negroes, to promote the general welfare of the negro in industrial pursuits, to give aid and encourage the general unlift of the negro and to stamp out Bolshevism wherever it may exist. The bill is before the House Judiciary Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.
Office of the Secretary.
WASHINGTON.

Negro World 4/30/21

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22.—While 19.33 per cent of unskilled Negro labor in the country joined the army of unemployed during the last three months of industrial depression only 2.63 per cent of the skilled labor was thus affected. This is a most interesting deduction from an emergency survey of selected industries made by the Department of Labor.

"This fact," summarizes the report, "is strong evidence of the growing inclusion and retention of colored workers and should act as an encouraging sign to colored labor that gained a foothold in the skilled group."

[illegible]n to apply themselves to early road construction and repairing and to retur nto agricultural pursuits has had an effect to reduce in some measure the number of colored unemployed. Reports from Richmond, Va., say that a revival of the building industry of that place has reduced the number of involuntary unemployed people among colored workers to practically zero.

The Calmut district, of which Chicago is the center, leads in the number of colored unemployed, with an approximation of 15,000. In Michigan the unemployment of colored is given as having been decreased by 2,530. In the Pittsburgh district estimates indicate that the average unemployed colored labor is 4,500. On March 31, 1921, in that district, there were 2,000 of these workers "absolutely unemployed."

MANY PROTEST THE CLOSING OF LABOR BUREAU

Eight Employees Lose Positions in State Labor Department—Thousands Will Miss Boon of Securing Jobs Free

New York Dispatch 5/2/21

The entire staff of the State Employment Bureau is to be dispensed with on June 1st, 1921. These positions represent political patronage which the community secured through the efforts of the United Civic League and Edw. A. Johnson, the founder of

the Bureau.

During the past two and a half years twenty thousand colored men and women have been placed in positions of every description. Clerks, chauffeurs, stenographers, mechanics, census enumerators, office boys, domestics and laborers have been sent out by the hundreds. Last year members of the State staff combed Harlem for unemployed, and in four months five thousand persons were actually hired out of the Bureau. Automobiles drove up to 184 West 135th street all day long and the idle rich took home competent help. The files contain more than eight thousand employers of labor and at least twenty-five thousand applications for jobs. Steamship lines, summer hotels, railroads and industrial concerns of various sorts have expressed keen disappointment that this clearing house for colored labor is being dissolved.

It is indeed to be regretted that the members of the race in Harlem, 155,000 strong, should sit by and watch the political pirates from other districts pack up their treasures and sail away. The welfare agencies, social organizations, newspapers, politicians, job hunters and those who desired benefits from the Bureau should have at least made an effort to have saved such an office. Scores of drives have been carried on for different purposes, but here is a concrete work, fully organized and of infinite value. The Dispatch sounds this warning again to the "brother" who sees only the eagle to beware. Let the white leaders explain to us their apathetic attitude toward the dissolution of such a practical and useful institution

NEGRO WORKERS HOLD DEPOSITS IN BANKS

New York Age 7/9/21

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Labor has made a brief canvass regarding the savings accounts of Negro workers in typical industrial centers as affected by the industrial depression during the period December 31, 1920, to April 30 1921.

Out of approximately 350 savings institutions, in industrial centers, carrying accounts of Negro workers, 68 banks reported, furishing figures showing that the savings of their Negro depositors remained practically unchanged during the four months ending April 30, 1921.

The 47,368 Negro depositors as of December 31, 1920, carrying a total amount of $3,809,809, were increased as of April 30, 1921, to 47,699 with a total savings accumulation of $3,721,474. These figures show a per capita deposit, as of December 31, 1920, of approximately $80, as compared, on April 30, 1921, with a per capita deposit of approximately $78.

In other words, Negro depositors withdrew from the sixty-eight banks above mentioned an amount of $88,315, or approximate per capita withdrawal of $2, considering the increase in number of depositors. This is certainly an indication of increasing thriftness of Negro workers.

U. S. Department of Labor To Survey Industries in New York

The New York Age 10/1/21

Commissioner Phil Brown in Charge, With Local Committee Cooperating--Present and Future Openings for Race

A survey of industries in New York City in which colored men and boys are employed or could be employed is to be made by the United States Department of Labor under direction of Commissioner of Conciliation Phil H. Brown, beginning October 1st. The North Harlem Vocational Guidance Committee, of which Dr. E. P. Roberts is chairman, and which has already made a partial survey of vocational conditions in Harlem, is preparing to actively cooperate with Commissioner Brown in this larger survey.

This committee was organized in April, 1921, its members, in addition to the chairman, being Fred R. Moore, representing the Parents' Association of P. S. 119; D. I. Martin, Parents' Association, P. S. 89; Chas. Smith, high school placement, Board of Education; Miss Nellie Swartz, women's department, State Department of Labor; Mrs. Albert Erdmann, vocational guidance and employment service for juniors, the Urban League; Mrs. P. Knauth and Dr. J. C. Conroy, district superintendent, Board of Education; with Mrs. G. E. McDougald, vocational guidance, Board of Education, as secretary.

The organization of this committee followed the publication of an editorial in The Age outlining the need and the work of such a body in connection with the vocational guidance of Harlems' boys and girls. Immediate results followed the forming of this committee, as beginning May, 1921, Mrs. MacDougald was assigned as vocational director at P. S. 89 and P. S. 119.

Following the partial survey, which included a questionaire to the various school principals as to the lack of opportunity handicapping colored graduates, an appeal to the Board of Education through District Superintendent Conroy brought from Dr. Strabenmuller, associate superintendent, authorization of this assignment. It is believed that the forthcoming survey of the Department of Labor will be used by the Board of Education, through its administrative staff, as a guide in planning future schools so that boys and girls will be trained not only for present industrial needs but for such possible future lines as it is thought the survey will disclose.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13

Labor— 1921.

Housing Condition

CHICAGO ILL POST
FEBRUARY 28, 1921

NEGRO HOUSING NEW PROBLEM IN RENT QUESTION

15,000 Negroes Out of Work, and Boost in Rents Adds to Their Troubles.

Chicago is confronted with a serious problem in connection with its negro population as a result of high rents and profeering landlords. Unemployment on a big scale, according to Ald. Louis B. Anderson of the 2d ward, is adding to the seriousness of the situation. Landlords in the south side "black belt" are boosting the rents from 15 to 50 per cent, despite the fact that thousands of negroes are out of work and with no possibility of immediate relief.

"It is a situation which public officials will have to deal with at once," said Ald. Anderson today. "The negroes simply cannot pay the high rents that the profiteering landlords are seeking to obtain. Neither can they move. It is hard enough for a colored family to obtain living quarters under most favorable circumstances. It is practically impossible with the present housing shortage.

15,000 Negroes Out of Work.

"The unemployed situation is adding to the serious state of affairs. Hundreds of colored men and women are losing their jobs every day. There are fully 15,000 negroes out of work at the present time and with no prospects of relief in sight. No work of any kind is to be had. Their financial means are rapidly exhausted, and credit is limited by the small retailers. Many families are without food.

"In spite of this grave situation the landlords persist in boosting the rents to prohibitive points. All the tenants can do is to accept the terms forced upon them and meet those terms the best they can. If the landlords are permitted to continue gouging these helpless people, I hesitate to predict the outcome.

Cannot Pay Higher Rent.

"Most of the tenants simply cannot meet the rent boosts because they have no means of earning even enough money to properly feed their families and themselves."

Ald. Anderson is planning to take up with Mayor Thompson, Commissioner of Public Works Francis and other city officials the plan of pushing as quickly as possible big public improvements.

Meantime complaints from tenants in all sections of the city continued to pour in upon Joseph F. Peacock, city real estate agent, and head of the high-rent bureau. Many landlords also called upon or wrote to Mr. Peacock seeking to excuse rent boosts.

More Complaining Tenants.

Among the tenants were the following: R. Eidenberg, 3582 Flournoy street, four rooms, steam, $32.50 to $40 to $55; Israel Schechtman, 1253 Independence boulevard, owner. Harry Herold, 1021 Balmoral avenue, six rooms, steam, $38 to $42 to $60 to $75; H. Harmstone, 10 South LaSalle street, owner. Mrs. Celia Kann, 6514 Dorchester avenue, seven rooms, steam, $37.50 to $50; Martin O'Shea, 6512 Dorchester avenue, owner. W. E. Grable, 3319 West Fulton street, five rooms, hot water, $40 to $60 to $70; L. Douglas, owner. L. J. and W. F. Keith, 4210 Lake Park avenue, six rooms, steam, $32.50 to $42.50 to $75; K. R. Beak & Co., agents. F. M. Nestle, 6010 South Park avenue, six rooms, steam, $54 to $62.50 to $90; James A. Bidderman, 10 South LaSalle street, agent. "Tenants in distress," 1600 Wilson avenue, four rooms, steam, $55 to $75; five rooms, $65 to $90 and six rooms, $80 to $110; Mrs. Tillie Goldberg, 3509 Douglas boulevard, owner.

Rates Boosted by Woman.

Mr. Peacock also was notified that Mrs. Ruth Simons, 1520 West 62d street, had boosted rents in her eighteen-apartment building at 62d and Laflin streets from $25 to $28 to $57.50 to $60, and in another eighteen apartment building at 61st and Laflin streets from $32.50 to $50 to $65.

The following landlords pleaded justification in rent boosting and agreed to permit city representatives to inspect their properties:

Mrs. R. Conley, 5121 Indiana avenue; Dr. J. Shinglman, 1229 South 49th avenue; Robert L. Davis, 734 South Claremont avenue; L. Lapin, 4810 North Sawyer avenue; Wiliam Heller company, 203 East 69th street, and Joseph J. Forbrick, 3827 Grand boulevard.

The William Heller company stated in a letter to Mr. Peacock that the firm wished to be known as "anti-profiteering agents," and was glad to co-operate with the city in fixing rents on tenants.

Big Drive for Rent Bill.

Officers of the Chicago Tenants' Protective league marshaled their forces for a double drive to pass the rental commission enabling act at Springfield the middle of this month. The bill will be called up for hearing in the senate committee March 16.

Representative of the league began a systematic canvass of local business houses to obtain support for the measure. At the same time the biggest series of mass meetings yet scheduled was announced for this week.

Time and Place of Meetings.

Monday—Ogden school, 9 West Chestnut street; Lemoyne school, 845 Waveland avenue.

Tuesday—Shakespeare school, 46th street and Greenwood avenue; Nobel school, 4157 Hirsch street.

Wednesday—Emmett school, 5500 West Madison street; Delano school, 3937 Wilcox avenue.

Thursday—Shepard school, 2839 Fillmore street; McKinley high school, 2040 West Adams street; Ray school, 56th street and Kimbark avenue.

Friday—McPherson school, 4728 North Lincoln street; Wadsworth school, 64th street and University avenue.

Illinois

The anti-profiteering committee of the Chicago Real Estate board was to make its report to the full membership of the board today. A. S. Peabody, vice chairman, announced that the final details of the zoning plan, together with the rental rates, had been practically decided upon.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor—1921.

West Virginia

Welfare Work.

From Logan District Mines Information Bureau,
508 Charleston National Bank Building, Charleston, W. Va.

COAL FACTS, No. 1

The Truth About Mine Guards and "Gunmen" in West Virginia

Law and order in West Virginia are enforced as in any other state, by municipal police in the cities and by sheriffs and deputies in the rural districts. There is also a small force of state police and a state militia is in process of organization.

Charges have been made that West Virginia coal mine operators have undertaken to augment the constituted peace force by employing "gunmen" and "armed guards."

An example is furnished in Logan County, which covers 475 square miles of extremely mountainous country. It has a population of 50,000.

The total appropriation for peace officers in Logan County is sufficient to pay three policemen in Logan, the county seat, and eight deputy sheriffs for general duty in the county.

County Provides Only Eleven Police

It is manifest that this force is ridiculously small to provide protection for 50,000 persons living in mining towns which are separated from each other by high mountains.

Consequently the coal operators of the county have been called upon to provide funds for the employment of 39 additional deputy sheriffs. These men are not employed by the operators, but by the sheriff of the county, who, under the West Virginia law, is also the fiscal officer of the county and to whom the funds provided by the operators are paid and by whom the deputies are paid.

These deputies are under the direct authority of the sheriff, just as are the eight deputies whose wages are paid by county levy.

Provide Schools as Well as Protection

The reason their wages are provided for by the mine operators is simple: The tax system of West Virginia was evolved when the state was solely concerned in agriculture, the farms were widely scattered and expenses of the counties were small.

Effort has been made to have the system altered to suit present-day conditions, and the coal operators, who are called upon to bear much of the additional necessary expense for police work, schools and road-building, have been active in these efforts.

There has, however, been no change in the situation and the operators are still called upon to bear an unfair proportion of the county expenses, which they do because *the work must be done and funds are available from no other source.*

No Baldwin-Felts Men

Senators Kenyon and Shortridge during their investigation in Logan County last September called for testimony on this subject from Walter R. Thurmond, president of the Logan Coal Operators' Association, who said:

> "The amount of money allowed by this county for police protection is inadequate and the coal operators are levied upon for the deficit, a sum of money which they pay into the county."
>
> Senator Kenyon—"And that is used to pay the deputy sheriffs?"
>
> Mr. Thurmond—"Yes, sir. That is used to pay the deputy sheriffs who are the peace officers of the entire county, and not simply the guardians of the mine owners."
>
> Senator Kenyon—"Do you believe it is a good policy for private interests to pay the officers?"
>
> Mr. Thurmond—"I do when the county has not sufficient funds to do it. You must have police officers in any community."
>
> Senator Kenyon—"As I understand it you have never had any Baldwin-Felts men here?"
>
> Mr. Thurmond—"I think there were two or three employed about twelve years ago, but **not within the last twelve years.** Every officer is a citizen of this county."

The "Armed Guards"

The fire hazard in coal mines is great. Insurance companies insist upon the employment of watchmen whose duty it is to make frequent inspections, especially at night, when the mines are not in operation. Most of these men carry revolvers—they refuse to take the job unless they are permitted to go armed. *Not more than four are employed at the largest mine operation in Logan County.* Most of the mines employ only one.

These men are not deputy sheriffs; they have no police power other than that possessed by any citizen.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13